



County of Erie

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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HEALTH ADVISORY #298 RABIES VACCINE AIRDROP IN ERIE & NIAGARA COUNTY

AUGUST 20, 2012

Please distribute to all Public Safety Answering Points, Police Departments, Animal Control Officers and Town Officials

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
503 Kensington Avenue, Buffalo NY 14214
(716) 961-6800

Dear Police Dispatch; Animal Control Officer; Town Official,

In its continuing effort to fight the spread of rabies, the Erie and Niagara County Departments of Health, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services, will be participating in an aggressive raccoon rabies vaccination initiative to begin tentatively on August 21, 2012, and running through August 31, 2012 throughout these counties using a fixed wing aircraft, helicopter, and hand baiting methods of vaccine distribution. This schedule may be adjusted slightly due to inclement weather.

A TENTATIVE SCHEDULE has been set for distribution of the rabies vaccine baits as follows:

- **August 21, 2012: Fixed wing aircraft baiting to begin and take approximately 1 day to complete**
- **August 25, 2012: Hand baiting to begin and take approximately 4-5 days to complete**
- **August 27, 2012: Helicopter baiting to begin and take approximately 4 days to complete**

The bait consists of fishmeal, a wax binder, fish oil and a vaccine chamber in the center of the bait. The bait and vaccine are not harmful to people, pets, or wildlife. The vaccine used is licensed for use against raccoon rabies in the United States and Canada. Raccoons and other wildlife usually ingest the bait within one week.

Any human or pet exposures to the bait or vaccine should be reported to the Animal health Diagnostic Laboratory at (1-888-715-7785). This phone number will be attached to each

individual bait. Additional information about rabies and the ORV program is available on the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services website at

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/oral_rabies/index.shtml.

If you require further information, please call the Erie County Health Department (Environmental Health) at 961-6800.

Health Category Definitions:

Health Alert FLASH: conveys the highest level of importance due to a large-scale, catastrophic public health emergency; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Alert Priority: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention to a health problem or situation

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary

The Erie County Department of Health does not provide medical advice. The information provided on the Erie County Department of Health website is not an attempt to practice medicine and is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. It is for informational purposes only. Always seek the advice of your personal physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition or issue. Never disregard professional medical advice or delay in seeking it because of the content found on the Erie County Department of Health website or this correspondence.

The ECDOH Health Alert & Advisory System is an e-mail notification system designed to alert community partners about important health related information. You can sign up to receive alerts & advisories at

<http://www2.erie.gov/health/index.php?q=node/59>.